

THE GOLDEN TRASH CAN AWARD CURBSIDE CLEANUP IS A LONG TRADITION

Bloomington's Citywide Curbside Cleanup began in 1964 as the "Clean Up - Paint Up - Fix Up Campaign" or "Spring Clean Up" as it was often called. The purpose of the campaign, according to a 1969 flyer, was to make Bloomington safer, cleaner and more beautiful.

The campaign was such a celebrated event that in 1978, and for many years thereafter, an award, called "The Golden Trash Can," was presented to the Bloomington property owner who displayed the "neatest, most attractive trash pile."

Residents were encouraged to clean their basements, garages and

closets, and urged to contact charitable groups to donate any unwanted items that were in good condition.



Workers load a resident's Spring Clean Up pile.

Although the Citywide Curbside Cleanup (as it is now called) was discontinued for a short time, it resumed in 1998 and today is still one very big event. In 2009, the City collected 1,795 tons of trash, 43 tons of

yard waste, 19 tons of scrap metal and 3,867 appliances.

See page 4 for more information on this year's Curbside Cleanup.

FROM AIRPORT SOUTH TO SOUTH LOOP REBRANDING AND PLANNING EFFORTS ARE UNDERWAY FOR DISTRICT

The area in east Bloomington that extends from I-494 on the north, TH 77 on the west to the Minnesota River on the south and east has a new name: South Loop.

On the northern end of the Hiawatha Light Rail Line, the North Loop neighborhood encircles Minneapolis' downtown. South Loop refers to the southerly terminus of the line, an area in Bloomington that is becoming a vibrant retail and office area. The name South Loop describes a community that is connected, accessible and convenient.

The South Loop District was previously referred to as the Airport South District. For years the name Airport South was used as a place holder by people referring to the location south of the airport, although it was never the official name.

The area and its name are important and unique for many reasons. South Loop comprises two-thirds of Bloomington's residential and commercial development potential and many other features that other cities would love to boast, such



as the Mall of America, Bloomington Central Station, a bustling employment center and close proximity to an international airport.

Director of Community Services Diann Kirby hopes the South Loop name will help establish the District as a destination noted for quality, sustainability and accessibility.

A task force made up of City staff, representatives from development and construction company McGough, Bloomington Convention and Visitors Bureau, and the Mall of America has been working with Bolin Marketing on the renaming and branding effort. The first result to come out of the task force was a new name for the District.

"We really needed a name that described the area," Kirby said. "South Loop resonated with stakeholders because it encompassed the confluence of the airport, Mall of America, highways, rivers and the wildlife refuge."

Stakeholders who voted on the name included residents, businesses and other organizations in the District. South Loop received favorable ratings from 69 percent of survey respondents, who noted that the name was "simple, urban, current, energetic and suggested

South Loop describes the confluence of the airport, Mall of America, highways, rivers and the wildlife refuge.



a bustling, transportation-oriented Twin Cities district."

Other names that were considered included MARS (an acronym for Mall, Airport, Refuge and South) and Long Meadow District.

According to Lee, the Philadelphia-based design firm Wallace, Roberts & Todd (WRT), best known for their work on the *Baltimore Harbor Master Plan*, was hired to assist City staff in preparing a district plan for South Loop.

"WRT was chosen for its experience with sustainable planning and mixed-use, transit-oriented development," Lee said.

Incorporating energy efficiency and sustainability will be a major component of the plan. Studying the feasibility of a district energy plant for the area is an early result of the emphasis on sustainability.

Kirby said the City is working on finalizing a logo for South Loop, which will be unveiled in the coming months.

For more information, call Senior Planner Bob Sharlin at 952-563-8925.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: SOUTH LOOP.

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PROTECT YOURSELF BE WARY OF SOLICITORS



Bloomington city code requires all solicitors to carry a City-issued license and identification card when soliciting door to door. Solicitors must not operate between 8 p.m. and 9 a.m., enter a property with a posted "No Solicitation" or similar sign, or use aggressive sales tactics. Nonprofit, religious and political organizations are exempt from licensing, but must abide by hours and have proper identification. For more information, call Licensing at 952-563-8728.

ADAPTIVE YOUTH SOFTBALL COME HAVE A BALL



This program teaches basic rules and good sportsmanship in a non-threatening environment.

- Who: Boys and girls with disabilities, ages 10 - 18.
- When: Mondays, June 21 - August 16.
- Where: Tarnhill Park, 9650 Little Road.
- Cost: \$55 includes team shirt and photo.

2010 PRIMARY ELECTION

The Primary Election will be held **Tuesday, August 10**, as a result of legislation passed by the Minnesota Legislature. For more information, call the City Clerk's Office at 952-563-8729.

WEBSITE KEYWORD: VOTING.

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BUILDING COMMUNITY
MAINTAINING ESSENTIAL SERVICES THAT GROW OUR CITY

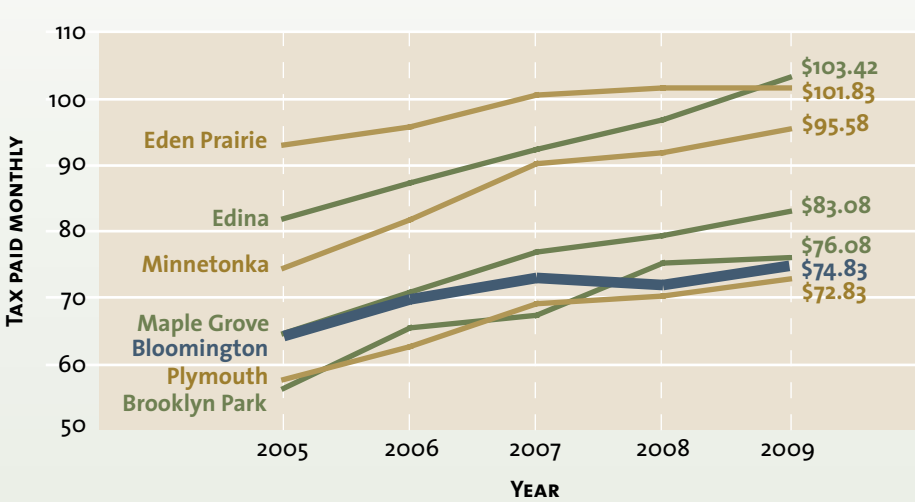
By Mayor Gene Winstead

One of the City’s goals is to protect and reinvest in the community’s long-term key investments – our homes and businesses – by providing services that make Bloomington safe and bring the community together. The services that residents and businesses receive are among the most competitively priced in the Twin Cities metro area. The City continues to look for ways to meet the community’s needs while improving services and keeping costs affordable.

City services are provided to a home independent of its property value. Police and Fire provide the same response and preventative services whether the property holds a small rambler or a three-story walkout. Public Works provides the same level of snow removal, street repair and maintenance to a home valued at \$200,000 on an 80-foot lot, as it does to a home valued at \$500,000 on that same lot. Services such as Parks and Recreation are a function of the people who use them, not the value of the property in which those people live. In a comparison of seven metro suburbs, Bloomington is currently the second lowest in average taxes paid by a single-family property owner. See graph top right.

Ongoing efforts to provide housing alternatives and revitalize commercial areas will continue to be the focus for 2010. Making Bloomington more sustainable by encouraging

AVERAGE SINGLE-FAMILY CITY TAX SHARE COMPARISON



higher density, mixed-use and, where applicable, transit-oriented development will continue to be the long-term goal.

In both expanding and contracting economic times, the City looks to improve the cost effectiveness of its services and does not staff or provide services beyond what it can carry through a normal downturn. The City developed strategies to get through the downturn in the late 1990s and began using these downturn strategies again in 2008 by holding staff positions open, approving a budget for 2010 with a 2.98 percent levy increase and by not increasing wages while holding City utility rates flat. However, during a downturn, demand for certain key services can actually increase.

How do the costs of City services compare to a monthly cable, Internet, cell phone or private utility bill? Police

services, which include preventive patrols, emergency medical response, traffic enforcement and crime investigation cost the owner of a \$228,600 median valued home \$24.46 per month. Public Works services that include snowplowing, street and parks maintenance, engineering and pavement management cost the same homeowner \$18.66 per month.

These key services are not only essential in that they keep Bloomington safe, but they make our City a desirable place to live and work. Maintaining service levels, even during difficult economic times, is a vital part of moving the community forward, making Bloomington a great place to live now and in the future.

UP FOR A CHALLENGE
BLOOMINGTON JOINS US-169 CORRIDOR COALITION

In an effort to continue to reduce congestion and maximize economic development along the US Highway 169 corridor, the City joined the US-169 Corridor Coalition.

The Coalition members, which include local and regional governments and agencies, joined together to advocate for transportation and transit improvements to the US Highway 169 corridor from the I-94/I-694 area to Mankato.

According to Bloomington Deputy Director of Public Works Jim Gates, the US-169/I-494 interchange is “one of the most significant and unsafe traffic bottlenecks in the metropolitan area.”

The City’s involvement in the Coalition is an important step toward addressing the problems of the interchange.

Increases in traffic have resulted in longer, more hazardous travel times. This, in turn, has a negative effect on the corridor’s ability to connect with other parts of the state and the region, as well as to national and international markets. Maintaining the viability and efficiency of the corridor necessitates a long-term commitment to a series of improvements designed to enhance the flow of traffic, both commuter and commercial, along this increasingly congested highway system.

While the improvement of the interchange is of great regional significance, the project has been in and out of the state’s construction program many times due to the high cost of the improvement and lack of dedicated funding.

For more information, contact Jim Gates at 952-563-8730, e-mail jgates@ci.bloomington.mn.us or visit www.us169corridorcoalition.com.



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The Briefing, published bimonthly by the City of Bloomington, is mailed to our residents and businesses. Direct comments and requests for Braille, larger print or computer disk to Communications Administrator Janine Hill, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington MN 55431-3027; PH 952-563-8819; TTY 952-563-8740; FAX 952-563-8715; E-MAIL jhill@ci.bloomington.mn.us.

Website: www.ci.bloomington.mn.us

BLOOMINGTON CITY COUNCIL



Mayor
Gene Winstead
952-888-1258 (h)
952-563-8782 (w)
gwinstead@ci.bloomington.mn.us

Councilmember At Large
Amy Grady
952-884-6502 (h)
agrady@ci.bloomington.mn.us



Councilmember At Large
Karen Nordstrom
952-831-5221 (h)
knordstrom@ci.bloomington.mn.us

Councilmember District I
Steve Peterson
952-884-3262 (h)
speterson@ci.bloomington.mn.us



Councilmember District II
Tom Hulting
952-942-9164 (h)
thulting@ci.bloomington.mn.us

Councilmember District III
Steve Elkins
612-578-2103 (c)
selkins@ci.bloomington.mn.us



Councilmember District IV
Vern Wilcox
952-854-1425 (h)
vwilcox@ci.bloomington.mn.us

Elected officials presented for informational purposes.

COUNCILMEMBERS
council@ci.bloomington.mn.us

CITY MANAGER
Mark Bernhardson 952-563-8780
citymanager@ci.bloomington.mn.us

DIRECTORS
Larry Lee, Community Development 952-563-8947
llee@ci.bloomington.mn.us
Diann Kirby, Community Services 952-563-8717
communityservices@ci.bloomington.mn.us
Lori Economy-Scholler, Finance 952-563-8791
finance@ci.bloomington.mn.us
Ulrie Seal, Fire 952-881-4062
fire@ci.bloomington.mn.us
Kent Michaelson, Human Resources 952-563-4898
kmichaelson@ci.bloomington.mn.us
Sandra Johnson, Legal 952-563-4895
legal@ci.bloomington.mn.us
Jeffrey Potts, Police 952-563-8601
police@ci.bloomington.mn.us
Karl Keel, Public Works 952-563-8731
publicworks@ci.bloomington.mn.us
General phone number 952-563-8700

The City of Bloomington complies with all applicable provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its services, programs, or activities. Upon request, accommodation will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in all City of Bloomington services, programs, and activities. The City has designated coordinators to facilitate compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), and to coordinate compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as mandated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations. For more information, contact the Human Services Division, City of Bloomington, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington, MN 55431-3027; 952-563-8733 (Voice); 952-563-8740 (TTY).

Upon request, this information can be available in Braille, large print, audio tape and/or electronic format.



2010 CENSUS
QUESTIONNAIRE
TEN QUESTIONS, TEN MINUTES

Why is it important to fill out and mail back your form and encourage others to do the same? The 2010 Census data will directly affect how more than \$4 trillion is allocated to local, state and tribal governments over the next 10 years. For every Bloomington resident who is not counted, federal money that could support highway and transit, Head Start and schools, community development and dozens of other programs will be left on the table.

Census numbers also determine which states gain or lose representation in Congress. According to the Minnesota State Demographer's Office, Minnesota is one of several states that may lose a congressional seat. Counting everyone will help prevent this loss of representation.

With one of the shortest questionnaires in history, the 2010 Census asks for name, gender, age, race, ethnicity, relationship and whether you own or rent your home. It takes only about 10 minutes for the average household to complete.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: 2010 CENSUS.

AN EYE ON CRIME
BUSINESS WATCH PROGRAM

The Bloomington Police Department (BPD) is reaching out to local businesses and property management companies to offer free security assessments and crime prevention training.

The Bloomington Police Business Watch Program, modeled after the very successful Neighborhood Watch Program, will offer security assessments, which include an onsite inspection of a building's locks, lighting, alarms and landscaping. The program also includes training on identity theft, personal safety, workplace violence, crime prevention and more. BPD is currently working with Bloomington's Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club, and Convention and Visitors Bureau to bring the program to more businesses.

"With more than 6,000 businesses in the city, it's a challenge to make connections," Officer Heidi Miller said. "We want businesses to know that they have a person to talk to in the Police Department."

Coming this spring, the BPD will host its first Business Watch meeting. For more information, contact Officer Heidi Miller at 952-563-4975 or e-mail hmill@ci.bloomington.mn.us.

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE
FINDING CREATIVE SOLUTIONS

RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

The City uses its property maintenance program to help homeowners maintain desirable neighborhoods. In 2009, Environmental Health staff worked with 2,600 property owners to correct violations. Although systematic inspections are the primary way violations are discovered, resident inquiries are very helpful.

Environmental Health investigated more than 800 resident inquiries last year, responding to reports of code violations such as tall grass or weeds, abandoned vehicles, items stored in yards and deteriorated home exteriors. The most frequently cited violations in 2009 were vehicles and trailers, storage, unmowed grass, weeds and brush.

Investigating inquiries within two business days is the City's goal. Some may take longer to investigate if the violation is not visible from the street.

Most owners correct violations after receiving a verbal or written notice. However, some property violations require more notices and time. Since 2006, the City has used a multi-disciplined approach to dealing with problem properties by combining the efforts of Environmental Health, Police, Human Services, Public Health and the City Attorney's Office. The goal is to bring problem properties into compliance quickly using all resources available. By combining its efforts, the City has achieved excellent results. Because enforcement is the last resort, the City prefers that residents be proactive about maintaining their properties. Talk to your neighbor or block captain if you see an issue in your neighborhood. Helping your neighbor recognize the problem and take corrective action before the problem escalates is a much more effective way to build neighbor-to-neighbor relationships than calling in a complaint. When backyard diplomacy does not work, call Environmental Health at 952-563-8934, e-mail an inquiry to envhealth@ci.bloomington.mn.us or use Ask the City on the City's website.

Give the inspector time to observe the violation and talk to the property owner to resolve the issue. Be patient. Resolutions may take more than a few days due to unforeseen complexities of the issues faced.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: PROPERTY MAINTENANCE FORM.



COMMERCIAL PROPERTY
MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

More than 10 years ago when Bloomington began to inspect residential neighborhoods, it was an innovative concept. Now, many first-tier suburbs are following the City's example. In 2008, Bloomington started inspections of commercial properties modeled on the concepts learned from the Residential Property Maintenance Program. In 2009, commercial inspections resulted in corrections of more than 220 violations. The majority of the issues concerned signage and exterior maintenance.

Inspectors spend a significant amount of time explaining the City's requirements and the reasons behind them. This educational component improves compliance with the orders to correct and future compliance with code provisions.

With more than 25,000 single-family homes, nearly 350 multi-family apartment buildings and 1,900 commercial properties, property maintenance control is a big job. Environmental Health needs your help to keep Bloomington looking good.

CASE STUDY

The issue: Tall grass and weeds are discovered on a property.

How the process works:

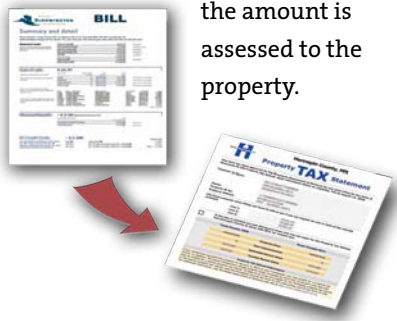
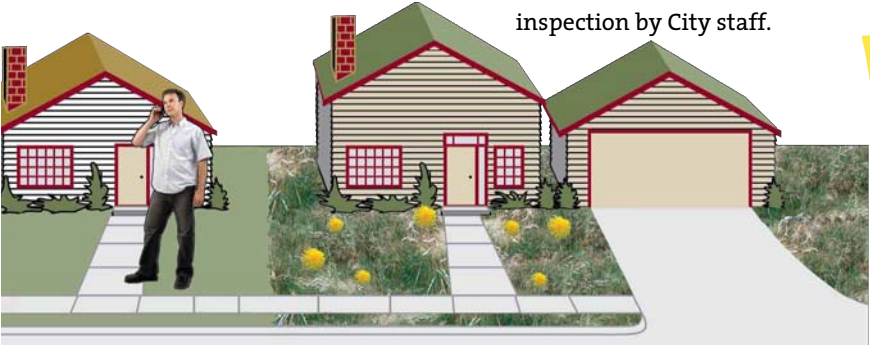
1 Resident inquiry is received or violation discovered through inspection by City staff.

2 A correction notice is issued. Owner is given ten days to comply.

3 City staff does follow-up inspection and may contact the owner or tenant.

4 If compliance is not achieved, City contractor mows.

5 Owner is billed. If bill is not paid, the amount is assessed to the property.



EMERALD ASH BORER UPDATE
TREE DISEASE STILL A THREAT

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), the small, iridescent green beetle that attacks and kills ash trees, still poses a threat to Bloomington's many ash trees. Although the Minnesota Department of Agriculture has not found any cases of EAB outside of Minneapolis and St. Paul, the City will remain vigilant in preparing for the tree disease.

There is no known way to stop EAB disease, but the City is taking measures to control its spread.

According to Assistant Maintenance Superintendent Paul Edwardson, the City recently completed an ash tree inventory and is beginning to remove ash trees that were rated "poor." Removing unhealthy trees reduces the number of possible host trees for EAB. Healthy trees are better equipped to fend off pests and disease, whereas weak trees are much more susceptible to disease. The Bloomington City Council passed an ordinance last year



prohibiting the planting of additional ash trees in the city.

In the meantime, Edwardson recommends residents take extra care of the trees they are trying to retain by giving them extra water.

WEBSITE KEYWORD: EAB.

EAB © David Cappaert, Michigan State University



CURBSIDE CLEANUP

QUESTIONS?
CALL 952-563-8750.

Be sure you're prepared by setting your materials at the curb before 7 a.m. on your pickup day. To prevent people from stealing copper and releasing hazardous chemicals into the air, please do not set appliances on the curb until the morning of your collection day. Remember, trucks will go through only once.

WEBSITE KEYWORD: CURBSIDE.

2010 CURBSIDE CLEANUP SCHEDULE

This year's Cleanup will go from east to west.

Saturday, April 10	East boundary to Portland
Saturday, April 17	Portland to Penn
Saturday, April 24	Penn to France
Saturday, May 1	France to Normandale
Saturday, May 8	Normandale to western boundary

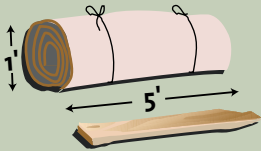
ACCEPTED AT THE CURB

Please be considerate; haulers cannot spend more than a few minutes at each house in order to complete the routes.

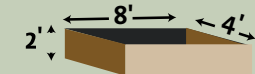
- **General junk:** Boxed, bagged or bundled – under 100 pounds per item.
- **Appliances:** Water heaters, microwaves, refrigerators, washers, dryers, stoves, air conditioners, dehumidifiers, freezers, etc. Limit TWO appliances per house. **No need to call ahead.**

NO electronics.

- **Carpets/pads:** Rolled and securely tied. Under five feet long and one foot in diameter – larger rolls are hard to handle.



- **Larger scrap metal ONLY:** Large scrap metal items that do not fit in the trunk of a car (swing sets, grills, etc.). All non-metal items (plastic, rubber) must be removed to be able to recycle the item. Smaller items can be taken to the Hennepin County Problem Materials Center. *See box below.*



- **Mattresses/box springs.**
- **Construction materials, lumber, windows and doors:** Pile limited to what fits in ONE level standard-size pickup truck. Lumber stacked and no longer than five feet. Bend nails. NO railroad ties. NO contractor materials.

- **BUNDLED brush:** Branches smaller than three inches in diameter and five feet in length. Includes buckthorn.

PREVENT ILLEGAL DUMPING AND PROTECT AIR QUALITY

Window air conditioners and dehumidifiers set out at the curb are targets for people who take copper tubing from appliances to sell. It is illegal to cut the copper tubing in appliances because it releases toxic pollutants, such as Freon, into the air. To help prevent illegal dumping and protect air quality, do not set out appliances that contain Freon until 7 a.m. on the day of your pickup. For more information, call Public Works at 952-563-8751.

OPTIONS FOR ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED AT THE CURB HENNEPIN COUNTY PROBLEM WASTE AND RECYCLING FACILITY

1400 West 96th Street, 612-348-3777

TU, TH, F	10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
W	10 a.m. - 8 p.m.
SA	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

- **Hazardous waste:** Paints, motor oil, solvents and other household chemicals.
- **Tires and batteries.**
- **Electronics:** TVs, VCRs, computers, monitors, stereos and cordless phones.
- **Recyclable materials:** Plastic and glass bottles, cans and all paper.
- **Gas-powered, refrigeration appliances:** Camper/other fridges, air conditioners – call ahead, 612-348-5832.
- **Small scrap metal** that fits into a car trunk.
- **Nonrefillable propane or butane cylinders** and one-pound canisters.



BURNSVILLE LANDFILL
952-890-3248

- Concrete, bricks.
- Porcelain: Tubs, sinks, toilets.
- Shingles.

NSP COMPOSTING
Burnsville, 952-736-1915

- Leaves, grass clippings, sod.
- Stumps, logs.

Earth Action Heroes protect the earth. Whether it's saving energy or guarding Bloomington's precious natural resources, these individuals are making a difference. Here are your neighbors in action ...



EARTH ACTION HEROES THOMAS AVENUE GREEN THUMBS



Thomas Avenue was chosen for the pilot project due to its soil condition and location near Nine Mile Creek. The rainwater gardens were created to infiltrate and prevent stormwater runoff into nearby water bodies. Aesthetics was also a factor in their creation. Each rainwater garden was designed specifically to fit the unique features of the property it occupies. A landscape architect from Barr Engineering assisted in the original rainwater garden designs and selection of plants.

The project was funded by the City's Stormwater Utility Fund and a grant from the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District.

Engineering staff will monitor the gardens for effectiveness, ease of maintenance and overall value. The City is planning a similar project for a neighborhood near Thomas Avenue in the late spring.

You can create your own rainwater garden. *See page 8 for upcoming rainwater garden workshops.*

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: RAINWATER GARDEN.

Engineering staff at the City, with the help of some garden-savvy residents, took advantage of a sunny afternoon last November to plant six rainwater gardens. The group planted more than 240 native grasses, flowers and shrubs on six properties on Thomas Avenue in conjunction with the City's Pavement Management Program. The weather may have been brisk, but according to Engineering Technician Bob Simons, it was perfect for planting rainwater gardens. "The homeowners who volunteered to help plant were very excited about the project so it worked out great," Simons said. Civil Engineer Julie Long said she was thrilled to see the enthusiasm of residents. "These rainwater gardens will not only look beautiful, they will improve water quality and the environment," Long said. Weather and other factors delayed the project until November. However, Civil Engineer Steve Segar said he wasn't worried about the plants' survival. "Because these plants are hearty natives and just entering dormancy, we should see a very high success rate," Segar said.



UNCLUTTER YOUR WORLD SIMPLIFY LIFE WITH CITYWIDE GARAGE SALES

Here are three simple ways to unclutter your home and clean up for spring: Set out items for the Curbside Cleanup, *see article left*; donate quality items to a local charity; or sell your unwanted treasures at the Citywide Garage Sales.

The Bloomington Optimist Youth Foundation, with the support of Human Services, will hold the 2010 Bloomington Citywide Garage Sales, **Thursday, May 27 - Saturday, May 29**. To advertise your garage sale on the official 2010 list, you will need to pay \$20 or \$25 for a listing and a yard sign.

Copies of the Citywide Garage Sales list are available for \$2 each through the Bloomington Optimist Youth Foundation. Lists will also be available on the City's website shortly before May 27. For more information, call the Bloomington Optimist Youth Foundation at 952-831-3798.





IDENTIFYING OPPORTUNITIES
THE YOUTH ACTION CREW

Thanks to a group of Bloomington youth, the City of Bloomington now has a valuable tool for identifying opportunities for young people.

The Bloomington Youth Action Crew (BYAC), with the guidance of Bloomington Health Specialists Denise Reese and Carolyn Anderson, created a map highlighting youth-friendly places in Bloomington.

To create the map, more than 570 kids, as well as businesses and community organizations, were asked about the opportunities that exist in Bloomington for young people to work, volunteer, connect with others and hang out.

For more information or to request a map, call Denise Reese at 952-563-8984.

PUBLIC HEALTH



HERE’S TO YOUR HEALTH
MAKING BLOOMINGTON A HEALTHIER PLACE

What if greater opportunities existed right in your backyard for physical activity and access to fresh fruits and vegetables? Wouldn’t it be easier to make healthier choices? Bloomington Public Health is using funding from the Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP) to explore ways to make Bloomington a healthier place to live, work and play.

SHIP is part of Minnesota’s health reform law that funds projects to achieve long-lasting environmental and policy changes supporting a healthy lifestyle. These projects target the top three preventable risk factors for chronic disease: tobacco use and exposure; poor nutrition; and physical inactivity. Projects include:

- Adding bicycle lanes to the 86th Street Corridor from Xerxes to I-35W.
- Identifying barriers to obtaining fresh fruits and vegetables through a study of fresh food markets and interviews with local residents.
- Providing training, resources and guidance to childcare centers to help children adopt healthy habits.

Mini-grants are currently being offered to groups working on activities that support these health initiatives. The application deadline is April 15, 2010.

WEBSITE KEYWORD: SHIP.

CELEBRATE WITHOUT ALCOHOL

TALK TO YOUR TEENS ABOUT MAKING SMART CHOICES



The summer break and warm weather bring many opportunities for youth to celebrate. It is important for teens to know those celebrations should not include alcohol. This is where parents come into the picture. Parents have a big impact on their teen’s choices. Bloomington Public Health and Tri-City Partners suggest parents remember the following:

- Let your teen know what you expect.
- Underage drinking is harmful – don’t buy into “everyone does it.”
- Monitor teens and their activities.
- Be a good role model – teens watch their parents’ behavior.

For more information, visit www.tricitypartners.org.

RUN FOR PEACE
SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS CELEBRATE DIVERSITY



Hundreds of Bloomington high school students, staff and community members will run, walk and roll from Kennedy to Jefferson High School on **Friday, May 7**, to promote diversity and peace. At the end of the run, each school observes Diversity Day with presentations, cultural awareness displays and activities. Both Bloomington high schools and the Bloomington Civic Plaza are designated as official Peace Sites.

The event is sponsored by the City of Bloomington, Bloomington Human Rights Commission, Bloomington School District’s Office of Educational Equity, Oak Grove Presbyterian Church and other community partners. The Richfield/ Bloomington Credit Union and Chipotle are supporting sponsors of the event.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: RUN FOR PEACE.

CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

RESOURCES ABOUND
HUMAN SERVICES FOR YOU AND YOUR LOVED ONES

Human Services provides exceptional programs and services to community members of all ages. Programs are accessible to youth, families, multicultural communities and active, aging adults and people with disabilities.

For more information, call Human Services at 952-563-8733 or TTY 952-563-8740. To sign up for e-mail updates, go to our website, click on *E-Subscribe* and subscribe to “Human Services.”

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: HUMAN SERVICES.



LET’S GO FLY A KITE
CELEBRATING CHILDREN’S DAY

Come fly a kite with the Bloomington Sister City Organization as they host their annual Kite Day event in celebration of Children’s Day in Japan. Bring your kite or pick up a free one, **Saturday, May 1, 1 - 4 p.m.**, at Valley View Playfield, 90th Street and Portland Avenue.

This exciting day will feature live entertainment, food and, of course, kites. Prizes will be awarded for most creative, original and Japanese-style kites.

For more information, visit the Bloomington Sister City website at www.bloomington-izumi.org.

THIRD ANNUAL GLOBAL CELEBRATION
AN INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

Explore different world cultures in Bloomington, **Saturday, June 19, 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.** at the Farmers Market. Let your senses be aroused as you taste ethnic foods, explore the customs of other nations, listen to traditional music, and see native crafts and wares. This free event is sponsored by Bloomington Human Services, Human Rights Commission, and Parks and Recreation. World cultural crafters, artists, food vendors and entertainers who would like to participate in the Global Celebration call 952-563-8733 or TTY 952-563-8740 for more information.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: GLOBAL CELEBRATION.



HOUSING AND TECHNOLOGY EXPO
FOR ACTIVE, AGING ADULTS

Bloomington Human Services invites you to a Housing and Technology Expo to learn about housing options, community services and new technologies to assist in daily living and to keep the mind and body active. This free event is **Saturday, May 15, 9 a.m. - noon**, at Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: HOUSING EXPO.

OLDER AMERICANS’ MONTH
SPECIAL EVENTS AT CREEKSIDE



The City of Bloomington recognizes the value of aging adults in our city. Older members of the community share their wisdom, experiences and insight with the broader community and serve as role models for future generations. In recognition of Older Americans’ Month, Human Services and community partners offer special events and educational programs throughout the month of May.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: OLDER AMERICANS MONTH.

SUMMER FUN FOR EVERYONE

ADULT
ATHLETICS

BORN AGAIN JOCKS
IT’S SENIOR SOFTBALL TIME

The Born Again Jocks welcome all residents, 55 years and older, of all skill levels and abilities to join the team. Games are Tuesdays and Thursdays, beginning **Tuesday, May 4, 8:45 a.m.**, at Valley View Playfield, 9000 Portland Avenue South. Come anytime. Gloves are available for loan.

For more information, call Dick Wortman at 952-888-1814.

SUMMER SAND
VOLLEYBALL
REGISTER NOW TO JOIN



Parks and Recreation is accepting registrations for Adult Summer Sand Volleyball. Leagues are offered in both Co-Rec and Women’s Divisions. Matches will be scheduled beginning **Wednesday, June 2.**

When: June 2 - August 12.
Where: Dred Scott Playfield, 10820 Bloomington Ferry Road.
Cost: \$250/Team + tax.
Deadline: Friday, May 7.

WEBSITE KEYWORD: VOLLEYBALL.

ADAPTIVE ADULT
SOFTBALL
COMPETITIVE AND
RECREATIONAL LEAGUES



Who: Adults, 19 and older.
When: Sundays, June 20 - August 15, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. (No program July 4.)
Where: Tarnhill Park, 9650 Little Road.
Cost: \$55 includes team shirt and photo.

WEBSITE KEYWORD: ADAPTIVE.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES
SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

Visit the City’s website to view a complete list of summer opportunities.

SATURDAY, JUNE 12

Bloomington Family Aquatic Center and Bush Lake Beach open.

MONDAY, JUNE 21

Summer Spectrum classes, Summer Adventure Playgrounds, Adventure Trips, Junior Team Tennis and Arts in the Parks begin.

MONDAY, JULY 19

Camp Kota and Kota Kids begin.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: SUMMER ACTIVITIES.



GRAB YOUR GOGGLES AND SWIMSUITS
BLOOMINGTON FAMILY AQUATIC CENTER IS WHERE IT’S AT

301 East 90th Street

Bloomington Family Aquatic Center features a zero-depth entry pool, interactive play areas, water slides, diving boards, sand volleyball, bathhouse and a concession stand.

When: June 12 - August 22 and weekends through Labor Day.
Weekdays: 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Weekends: 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Holidays: 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.



Daily passes*	Age	Daily admission	After 5 p.m.
	Age 1 and under	Free	Free
	2 - 5 years	\$6	\$5
	6 - 54 years	\$8	\$6
	55+ years	\$6	\$5

*Prices do not include tax.

Season passes*	Age	Resident	Non-resident
Child	2 - 10 years	\$14	\$35
Young adult	11 - 15 years	\$24	\$45
Adult	16 - 54 years	\$44	\$65.50
Senior	55+ years	\$14	\$35

*Prices do not include tax.

Season passes are available for purchase **now through June 4** at the Parks and Recreation counter in Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. Purchase passes at the Aquatic Center, **June 7 - 11, 4 - 7 p.m.**, or during regular hours beginning June 12.

A parent or guardian must purchase passes for children under 18 years of age. A driver’s license or state ID is required to verify residency. For more information, contact Parks and Recreation.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: AQUATIC CENTER.

BUSH LAKE BEACH

9140 East Bush Lake Road

Whether you want to relax on a chair with a good book or take the kids for a swim, Bush Lake Beach is the place to spend your summer.

A daily pass or seasonal parking permit is required for entrance to East Bush Lake Park.

When: June 12 - August 22.
Time: 10 a.m. - 8 p.m., M - F; 11 a.m. - 7 p.m., Daily.

Parking permits for Bush Lake Beach are now available for purchase. Cost for parking is \$5.25 + tax daily or \$27.25 + tax annually (June through August).

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: BUSH LAKE BEACH.



SWIMMING LESSONS

Private, semi-private and adaptive swimming lessons are offered mornings at the Bloomington Family Aquatic Center. For more information and registration forms, call Parks and Recreation.

SUMMER SPECTRUM
TIME TO HAVE SOME FUN



Beginning **Monday, June 21**, and spanning eight weeks, Summer Spectrum classes focus on youth entering grades K through 9. Classes and camps will be held at Oak Grove Elementary, 1300 West 104th Street. Limited bus transportation is available.

The catalog, mailed to the parents of school-age children in Bloomington public schools, is also on the City’s website.

Summer Spectrum is a collaboration among Bloomington Public Schools’ Community Education, Bloomington’s Parks and Recreation Division, and the Bloomington Art Center.

For more information or to register for programs, visit the City’s website.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: SUMMER SPECTRUM.



Photo courtesy of BFA.

BLOOMINGTON
FASTPITCH
ASSOCIATION

For more than 20 years, Bloomington families have worked together to provide memorable experiences for their daughters through Bloomington Fastpitch Association (BFA.)

BFA not only provides an opportunity for girls to learn a sport, but also serves as a link into high school athletics. Fastpitch Softball is a spring sport offered at both Jefferson and Kennedy high schools.

The typical summer schedule is April through July. Team practice is held twice a week at various Bloomington locations.

BFA teams are forming now. For more information, visit the BFA website at www.bloomingtonfastpitch.softballsystems.com.



OUTDOOR ADVENTURES



PLAYGROUND PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM
END-OF-SUMMER PLAY DATES

Join your friends for more games, sports, arts and crafts at Westwood Park, 3490 West 109th Street, or Smith Park, 8155 Park Avenue South. This free program is supported and funded by Oak Grove Presbyterian Church, the City of Bloomington and Bloomington School District.

Dates: July 6 - 9, August 23 - 27 and August 30 - September 3.
Time: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Ages: 6 - 12 years old.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: PLAYGROUND PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM.

GET TOGETHER WITH FRIENDS
PICNIC SHELTERS MAKE THE PERFECT SUMMER VENUE



Picnic shelters are available to rent through mid-October for picnics, receptions, reunions, meetings and more. Shelters have electricity, grills, restrooms and drinking fountains. City parks offer playground equipment, volleyball and horseshoe courts, trails, and softball fields. For more information on reserving a shelter or to obtain a registration form, visit our website.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: PICNIC SHELTER RENTAL.

SUMMER ADVENTURE PLAYGROUNDS
GET OUT AND HAVE SOME FUN

Join your friends for an awesome summer of fun at your neighborhood playground. Activities include sports, arts and crafts, games and special events. Participants will be supervised by adult instructors experienced in outdoor recreation.

Date: Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, June 21 - August 20.
Time: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Locations: Brye, Kelly, Poplar Bridge, Running, Smith, Sunrise and Westwood parks.
Ages: 6 - 12 years old.
Cost: \$55 on or before May 31. \$60 on or after June 1.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: SUMMER ADVENTURES.



For all theater tickets, call the Box Office at 952-563-8575.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: CENTER FOR THE ARTS.



MEDALIST CONCERT BAND
The Medalist Concert Band, under the direction of Jerry Luckhardt, will perform *You Tuba*, **Sunday, May 23, 4 p.m.** The performance will feature the tuba and euphonium sections of the band. Carley Marie Olson, winner of the first annual Earl C. Benson Concerto Competition for high school band students, will be guest performer.

NOTE-ABLE SINGERS
The NOTE-able Singers present *Big City Swing*, **Thursday, June 3, 7:30 p.m.** and **Sunday, June 6, 2 p.m.** The show includes Broadway show tunes, jazz, swing and ragtime numbers. Tickets are \$10 adults; \$8 students/seniors.



GREEN THUMB?
GARDEN PLOTS AVAILABLE
Garden plots are available at Smith Park, 8155 Park Avenue South. Plots are 10 by 15 feet and available to use **May 1 - October 15** for a fee of \$32. For more information, call Parks and Recreation at 952-563-8882.
WEBSITE KEYWORDS: GARDEN PLOTS.

HAVE CANOE, WILL TRAVEL
ENJOY OUR NATURAL RESOURCES

Attention, canoe owners! Bush Lake is the perfect location to use and store your canoe. Canoe racks are available for rent, **May 1 - October 31**, at West Bush Lake Park, 94th Street and West Bush Lake Road.
WEBSITE KEYWORDS: CANOE RACKS.

AND THE WINNER IS...
CITY RECOGNIZES HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY FOR FOOD SAFETY



The 14th Annual Diamond Service Awards took place in March at the Sheraton Hotel.

Large Restaurant
American Girl Bistro
Full Service Hotel
Chez Daniel, Embassy Suites
Limited Service
Southtown Lanes
Fast Food/Pizza/Cafeteria
Panda Express (Mall of America) and Seagate Technology
Retail Grocery
Sam's Club
Grand Winner Overall Safety Award
American Girl Bistro

Receiving a Food Safety Award is a source of pride and dedication to food safety. Restaurants are nominated by the City's Environmental Health inspectors and their industry peers. The Food Safety Awards are part of the Diamond Service Awards program sponsored by the Bloomington Convention and Visitors Bureau. For more information, call Environmental Health Manager Lynn Moore at 952-563-8970.

CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Located in Bloomington Civic Plaza at the corner of West 98th Street and Old Shakopee Road, the Center for the Arts is a first-class facility housing seven arts organizations. For facility information, call 952-563-8889. For exhibit information and events, visit www.bloomingtonartcenter.com and click on "Exhibitions" or call 952-563-8567.

GALLERY HOURS
Hours: M - F 8 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Sa 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Su 1 - 10 p.m.

INEZ GREENBERG GALLERY

Functional Dysfunction, featuring the collaborative paintings of artists Caprice Glaser and Ray Becoskie, runs **through May 7**.
In Plain Sight, featuring works by artists Richard Abraham, Scott Lloyd Anderson, Neil Sherman and Brian Young, runs **May 14 - July 9**.

ATRIUM GALLERY



Series 4 #10 by Nanci Yermakoff.
A Fine Line, featuring artist Nanci Yermakoff, runs **through May 2**.
The *Bloomington Public Schools Art Show*, featuring works by students, runs **May 4 - 27**. An artists' reception takes place May 4, 6 - 7:30 p.m.

SCHNEIDER THEATER

A GERMAN REQUIEM
The Bloomington Chorale will perform *A German Requiem* by Johannes Brahms and *American Spirituals*, **Saturday, April 10, 7:30 p.m.** and **Sunday, April 11, 3 p.m.**
Tickets are \$14 adults; \$10 students/seniors.



THE KING AND I
Bloomington Civic Theater presents the classic Rodgers and Hammerstein musical *The King and I* **April 23 - May 22**. Tickets are \$25 adults; \$22 seniors; \$19 students. For more information and show times, visit www.bloomingtoncivictheatre.org.

BLACK BOX THEATER

PRISONER OF SECOND AVENUE
Bloomington Civic Theatre presents a Gallery Theater production of Neil Simon's comedy *Prisoner of Second Avenue*, **May 7 - June 6**.
Tickets are \$18 adults; \$14 students/seniors.

IN THE COMMUNITY

A SONG FOR EVERYONE
The Angelica Cantanti Youth Choir will perform their spring concert, *A Song for Everyone*, **Sunday, May 2, 2 p.m.**, at St. Michael's Lutheran Church, 9201 Normandale Boulevard. This special concert will feature more than 150 youth singers ages 7 - 18.

RECREATIONAL FIRES
TAKE FIRE SAFETY SERIOUSLY



A recreational fire is an outdoor fire used for cooking, warming or ceremonial purposes. If you decide to burn a recreational fire, remember to be considerate of your neighbors by locating the fire pit in an area that won't affect them or violate City Code. The intent of the Recreational Fire Code is to prevent fire hazards for your safety and the safety of your property and adjacent properties.

Recreational fires are permitted in accordance with the following conditions:

- Use only clean, dry wood.
- Firewood stacks cannot exceed three feet in diameter by two feet high.
- Fires must be located at least 25 feet away from anything combustible.
- Extinguishing equipment must be readily available.
- No fires from midnight to 7 a.m.
- A recreational fire must be extinguished if an official determines it is creating a fire safety hazard.

For more information, call Fire Marshal Gene Dugal at 952-563-8967.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: RECREATIONAL FIRE.

**BLOOMINGTON
TOP 10**

#3 FOR WORKING MOMS

Forbes Woman ranks our metro area as #3 among the 50 largest U.S. cities for factors important to working mothers. The metro area ranked particularly high for health care (#1), school quality (#1), salaries (#10) and a relatively low unemployment rate (#15). To catch up with New York City and Austin, Texas, ahead of us in the #1 and #2 positions, our city needs to do better on child care options (#41 of 50) and number of pediatricians (#30). If Bloomington were ranked separately, it would score higher than the metro area in property crime rate (#25), available parks (#24) and violent crime rate (#13), closing the gap with the highest-ranked cities.

Bloomington-based RSM McGladrey is rated among the 100 best companies for working mothers. WorkingMother.com writes, "Moms who work for this Bloomington consulting firm can count on help in difficult times when they call its free work/life coach, who aids them in resolving financial, family and workplace issues."

ENJOYING THE GREAT OUTDOORS



ON PATROL
FOLLOW THE RULES OF THE ROAD

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), each year more than 500,000 people in the United States are treated in emergency departments and more than 700 die as a result of bicycle-related injuries. In 2009, Bloomington Police responded to 56 incident calls involving bicycles.

Education is an invaluable tool when it comes to bicycle safety. Whether you're an experienced cyclist who rides to work every day or a recreational cyclist who enjoys the occasional bike ride through the park, safety should be your first priority. The CDC recommends that all adult cyclists take a short class, workshop or otherwise become involved in the local bicycling community to brush up on riding skills, especially if it has been a while since you've cycled regularly.

The Minnesota Department of Transportation recommends bicyclists follow these rules of the road to stay safe:

- Never ride in restricted areas.
- Ride on the road, and in the same direction as traffic.
- Obey all traffic control signs and signals, just as motorists.
- Motorists and bicyclists must yield the right-of-way to each other.
- Signal all turns and strive to ride in a predictable manner.
- Use a headlight and rear reflectors when it's dark. To increase visibility, add a rear flashing light.
- Always wear a helmet.

For more information, visit the Minnesota Department of Transportation's website: www.sharetheroadmn.org.



DON'T FORGET FIDO
PETS LEFT IN HOT CARS SUFFER

Never leave an animal in a parked vehicle when the weather outside is warm. Vehicle temperatures can reach 120 degrees or more in just minutes during the summer months, even when the vehicle's windows are partially open. In high temperatures animals can suffer brain damage or die from heatstroke or suffocation.

Minnesota State Law prohibits leaving an animal unattended in a vehicle that may endanger the health or welfare of the animal. Call 911 immediately if you observe this situation and it appears that the animal is in distress.

For more information, call Animal Control at 952-563-4942.



RAINWATER GARDENS
WORKSHOPS TEACH THE BASICS

The City of Bloomington and Lower Minnesota River Watershed District are hosting two rainwater garden workshops for Bloomington residents, **Thursday, May 6 and 20, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.**, in the Bloomington Public Works building, 1700 West 98th Street. Attend and you could win a raffle for a free rain barrel.

Workshops are facilitated by Metro Blooms, a nonprofit gardening organization, and local landscape ecologist Rusty Schmidt. To register, visit www.metroblooms.org.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: RAINWATER GARDENS.

BRING HOME SOME GREEN
ANNUAL TREE SALE HELPS PLANT HUNDREDS OF TREES

Each year, the City plants trees in parks and other public areas to ensure that Bloomington's urban forest continues to be one of the community's treasures. In fact, the City has planted more than 1,000 trees over the last few years. To increase the number of trees on private properties, Park Maintenance holds a public tree sale. Based on last year's sales, 280 trees will be available for purchase this spring.

TREE ORDER FORM

Bloomington residents only. All trees are bare root, one-and-a-quarter to one-and-a-half inches in diameter and cost \$50 each. *Trees are not guaranteed.*

Name

Phone

Address

Fill in number of each tree type desired. Maximum 5 trees total per household, \$50 each. Check must accompany order.

Autumn Blaze red maple

Imperial honeylocust

Prairie Fire crab apple

Hackberry

Northwood red maple

Snowdrift crab apple

Total trees

X \$50 ea. = \$

Total cost

Pick up trees at 1800 West Old Shakopee Road on **Saturday, May 1, 9 - 11 a.m.**

Send check and form to City of Bloomington, Park Maintenance, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington MN 55431-3027.

Available tree species include: *Autumn Blaze* red maple, Hackberry, *Imperial* honeylocust, *Northwood* red maple, *Prairie Fire* crab apple and *Snowdrift* crab apple. Orders will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Trees are not guaranteed. For more information, call the Maintenance Division at 952-563-8760.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: TREE SALE.

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FIRE, DOG, BIKERS AND CRAB APPLE FLOWERS © BIGSTOCKPHOTO.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON BRIEFING, APRIL 2010